

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a listing of claims that replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-57 (previously cancelled).

58. (Currently amended) A method for identifying an agent ~~which binds~~ as binding to SEQ ID NO:1, comprising:

- (a) ~~adding a candidate~~ contacting a sample that comprises an agent to with an amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said contacting is under conditions for binding said agent to said amino acid sequence; and
- (b) detecting binding of said agent to said SEQ ID NO:1, thereby identifying said agent as binding to SEQ ID NO:1.

59. (Previously added) The method of Claim 58, wherein said amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:1 is immobilized on a support selected from the group consisting of microtiter plate, array, membrane, and bead.

60. (Previously added) The method of Claim 58, wherein said amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:1 is immobilized on a support comprising glass, plastic, polysaccharide, nylon, and nitrocellulose.

61. (Previously added) The method of Claim 58, wherein said agent is a protein.

62. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 58, wherein said agent is ~~a nucleic acid~~ an oligonucleotide.

63. (Currently amended) A method for identifying an agent ~~which binds~~ as binding to amino acids 1 to 357 of SEQ ID NO:1, comprising:

- (a) ~~adding a candidate~~ contacting a sample that comprises an agent to with an amino acid sequence comprising amino acids 1 to 357 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said contacting is under conditions for binding said agent to said amino acid sequence; and

- (b) detecting binding of said agent to said amino acid sequence, thereby identifying said agent as binding to amino acids 1 to 357 of SEQ ID NO:1.

64. (Previously added) The method of Claim 63, wherein said amino acid sequence comprising amino acids 1 to 357 of SEQ ID NO:1 is immobilized on a support selected from the group consisting of microtiter plate, array, membrane, and bead.

65. (Previously added) The method of Claim 63, wherein said amino acid sequence comprising amino acids 1 to 357 of SEQ ID NO:1 is immobilized on a support comprising glass, plastic, polysaccharide, nylon, and nitrocellulose.

66. (Previously added) The method of Claim 63, wherein said agent is a protein.

67. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 63, wherein said agent is ~~a nucleic acid~~ an oligonucleotide.

68. (Currently amended) A method for identifying an agent ~~which binds~~ as binding to amino acids 443 to 601 of SEQ ID NO:1, comprising:

- (a) ~~adding a candidate~~ contacting a sample that comprises an agent to with an amino acid sequence comprising amino acids 443 to 601 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said contacting is under conditions for binding said agent to said amino acid sequence; and
- (b) detecting binding of said agent to said amino acid sequence, thereby identifying said agent as binding to amino acids 443 to 601 of SEQ ID NO:1.

69. (Previously added) The method of Claim 68, wherein said amino acid sequence comprising amino acids 443 to 601 of SEQ ID NO:1 is immobilized on a support selected from the group consisting of microtiter plate, array, membrane, and bead.

70. (Previously added) The method of Claim 68, wherein said amino acid sequence comprising amino acids 443 to 601 of SEQ ID NO:1 is immobilized on a support comprising glass, plastic, polysaccharide, nylon, and nitrocellulose.

71. (Previously added) The method of Claim 68, wherein said agent is a protein.

72. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 68, wherein said agent is ~~a nucleic acid~~ an oligonucleotide.

73. (Currently amended) A method for identifying an agent ~~which binds~~ as binding to amino acids 602 to 784 of SEQ ID NO:1, comprising:

- (a) ~~adding a candidate~~ contacting a sample that comprises an agent to with an amino acid sequence comprising amino acids 602 to 784 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said contacting is under conditions for binding said agent to said amino acid sequence; and
- (b) detecting binding of said agent to said amino acid sequence, thereby identifying said agent as binding to amino acids 602 to 784 of SEQ ID NO:1.

74. (Previously added) The method of Claim 73, wherein said amino acid sequence comprising amino acids 602 to 784 of SEQ ID NO:1 is immobilized on a support selected from the group consisting of microtiter plate, array, membrane, and bead.

75. (Previously added) The method of Claim 73, wherein said amino acid sequence comprising amino acids 602 to 784 of SEQ ID NO:1 is immobilized on a support comprising glass, plastic, polysaccharide, nylon, and nitrocellulose.

76. (Previously added) The method of Claim 73, wherein said agent is a protein.

77. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 73, wherein said agent is ~~a nucleic acid~~ an oligonucleotide.